

Appl. No. 09/623,018

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 8, a process for thermal conversion of carbonaceous feedstocks selected from biomass and organic wastes, said process comprising:

- feeding the feedstock into a drier, said drier comprising a riser having an axially annular cross section equipped with a multi-inlet cyclone for the separation of dried matter from vaporized gases and a dipleg;
- feeding the feedstock to a fluidized-bed reactor, wherein the feedstock is converted at an elevated temperature under the influence of particulate matter kept in a fluidized state by a fluidizing gas,
- transferring the particulate matter from the reactor to a regenerator for regeneration and then recirculating the particulate matter to the reactor after the regeneration, and
- recovering the converted hydrocarbon products from the reactor,

wherein

- said reactor comprises a riser having an axially annular cross section equipped with a multi-inlet cyclone for the separation of particulate matter, and wherein
- said regenerator is concentrically fitted around said reactor and wherein said regenerator comprises a riser having an axially annular cross section and equipped with a multi-inlet cyclone for separation of regenerated particulate matter; and

, wherein - the drier comprises a said dipleg of the drier which communicates with the riser of the regenerator.

10. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the drier comprises a channel for internal circulation.

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11. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 89, wherein the regenerator comprises a dipleg which communicates with the riser of the drier.

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 89, wherein the feedstock is thermally converted at a temperature of 400 - 1000 °C.

Claims 13-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for thermally converting carbonaceous feedstock(s), said apparatus comprising

-a drying unit for drying the feedstock(s),
- a reaction unit in which the feedstock is contacted with heated,
fluidized-state particulate matter, and
- a regenerator unit for regeneration of the particulate matter
contaminated in the reaction unit,

wherein

- wherein the drying unit comprises a riser fitted about the reaction unit in a
symmetrically concentric fashion, said riser having an axially annular cross
section;
- the reaction unit comprises a riser having an axially annular cross section
equipped with a multi-inlet cyclone for separating particulate matter from
gas, and
- the regenerator unit comprises a riser and a dipleg fitted about the reaction unit
in a symmetrically concentric fashion, said riser having an axially annular
cross section equipped with a multi-inlet cyclone for separating particulate
matter from gas, said dipleg of the regenerator unit communicating with the
riser of the reaction unit and with the drying unit.

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~~The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the drying unit comprises a riser fitted about the reaction unit in a symmetrically concentric fashion, said riser having an axially annular cross section.~~

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the drying unit comprises a dipleg having an axially annular cross section which communicates with the riser of the reaction unit.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18 or 19, wherein the riser of the drying unit is equipped with a gas and particulate matter separating means formed by a multi-inlet cyclone.

21. (Cancelled)